

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Reissue Patent Application of:)Attorney Docket No.: F-192

Mark Bresnan et al.)Group Art Unit: 3628

Serial No.: 09/628,496)Examiner: I. Borisov

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Commissioner for Patents
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APPELLANTS' BRIEF ON APPEAL

Sir:

This is an appeal pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 134 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 41.31 et seq. from the final rejection of claims 1-21, 23-40 and 42-52 of the above-identified reissue application dated February 18, 2010. A Notice of Appeal was filed on June 16, 2010.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in this appeal is Pitney Bowes Inc., a Delaware corporation, the assignee of this application.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no appeals or interferences known to Appellants, their legal representative, or the assignee which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-21, 23-40 and 42-52 are pending in this reissue application and are on appeal. Claims 22, 41 and 53 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5-21, 23-29, 32, 34, 37-40, 42, 43, 47, 51 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery et al. (EP 0719597) in view of Humes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,377,120). Claims 2, 30, 31 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery et al. in view of Humes et al. and further in view of Seki et al. (US 5,121,195) and Lombardo (US 5,346,123). Claims 3, 4, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46 and 48-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery et al. in view of Humes et al. and further in view of Rosenbaum et al. (US 5,031,223).

IV. Status of Amendments

There were no amendments made to the claims after the final rejection of February 18, 2010. Therefore, the claims as set forth in Appendix A to this brief are those as set forth before the final rejection.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

This summary and references to specific page and line numbers, figures and reference characters is not intended to supplant or limit the description of the claimed subject matter as provided in the claims as recited in Appendix A, as understood in light of the entire specification.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method of defining and producing a finished mail piece that comprises “(a) selecting at a first node, a plurality of characteristics which together define a mailing;” (see Fig. 4, item 302, and corresponding description in Col. 6, lines 4-15), “(b) creating a document and storing said document in electronic form, then directing that said stored document be included in a print job comprising said mailing;” (see Fig. 5C, item 358 and corresponding description in Col. 7, lines 55-60), “(c) creating an address list comprising one or more destination addresses and storing said address list in electronic form and then selecting said stored address list for inclusion in said print job;” (see Fig. 5A, item 328 and corresponding description in Col. 6, lines 41-49), “(d) transmitting electronically said print job to a terminal node wherein said terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node;” (see Fig. 8B, item 812 and corresponding description in Col. 17, lines 11-15), “(e) receiving said print job at said terminal node, said terminal node for receiving said print job and for directing said print job to a mail production means for producing said mail piece;” (see Fig. 8B, item 814 and corresponding description in Col. 17, lines 15-17), “said mail production means further comprising: (i) a first printer; and (ii) a second printer;” (see Fig. 1, items 38, 36 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-43), “(f) printing on said first printer said destination address to an envelope wherein each of said destination addresses is printed to a corresponding envelope;” (see Fig. 2, item 110 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 60-67), “(g) printing on said second printer said document, wherein said document is printed in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node;” (see Fig. 2, item 116 and corresponding description in Col. 4, lines 1-6), “(h) inserting said printed document into said printed envelope to form an unfinished mail piece;” (see Fig. 2, item 118 and corresponding description in Col. 4, lines 7-11), “(i) sealing said unfinished mail piece;” (see Fig. 2, item 118 and corresponding description in Col. 4, lines 12-13), “(j) franking said unfinished mail piece, in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node and with characteristics determined at said second node, in order to form a finished mail piece;” (see Fig. 2, item 120 and

corresponding description in Col. 4, lines 14-16), “and (k) placing said finished mail piece into a mail stream for delivery to said destination address printed thereon.” (See Fig. 2, item 122 and corresponding description in Col. 4, lines 16-17).

Independent claim 15 is directed to a system for producing a mail piece that comprises “(a) first data processing means for selecting a document, selecting an address list, and selecting a plurality of characteristics which together define a mailing;” (see Fig. 1, item 10 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 15-30), “(b) transmission means for transmitting said mailing to a second data processing means wherein said second data processing means is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first data processing means;” (see Fig. 1, item 22 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 28-30), “(c) second data processing means for receiving said mailing and downloading said mailing to a plurality of printer means comprising a first printer and a second printer;” (see Fig. 1, item 30 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 31-38), “(d) first printer means comprising said first printer for printing addresses from said address list to envelopes;” (see Fig. 1, item 38 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-42, 60-67), “(e) second printer means comprising said second printer for printing said document to media selected at said first data processing means;” (see Fig. 1, item 36 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-42, and Col. 4, lines 1-5), “(f) inserter means for inserting said printed document into said envelopes to form an unfinished mail piece;” (see Fig. 1, item 40 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-42 and Col. 4, lines 7-12), “(g) sealing means for sealing said unfinished mail piece;” (see Fig. 1, item 40 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-42 and Col. 4, lines 12-13), “and (h) franking means for franking said unfinished mail piece to form a finished mail piece.” (See Fig. 1, item 40 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-42 and Col. 4, lines 15-17).

Independent claim 20 is directed to a method of defining and producing a mail piece that comprises “selecting at a first node a plurality of characteristics which define a mailing;” (see Fig. 4, item 302 and corresponding description in Col. 6, lines 4-15), “creating a document and storing said document in electronic form;” (see Fig. 5C, item 358 and corresponding description in Col. 7, lines 55-60), “creating an address list comprising one or more destination addresses and storing said address list in electronic form;” (see Fig. 5A, item 328 and corresponding description in Col. 6, lines 41-49), “transmitting said document, said address list and said

characteristics to a terminal node wherein said terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node;" (see Fig. 8B, item 812 and corresponding description in Col. 17, lines 11-15), "receiving said document, said address list and said characteristics at said terminal node and directing said document, said address list and said characteristics to a mail production means;" (see Fig. 8B, item 814 and corresponding description in Col. 17, lines 15-17), "printing each of said destination addresses to a corresponding envelope;" (see Fig. 2, item 110 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 60-67), "printing said document in accordance with one or more of said characteristics selected at said first node;" (see Fig. 2, item 116 and corresponding description in Col. 4, lines 1-6), "inserting said printed document into a corresponding printed envelope to form the mail piece;" (see Fig. 2, item 118 and corresponding description in Col. 4, lines 7-11), "providing said printed envelope with evidence of postage payment;" (see Fig. 2, item 120 and corresponding description in Col. 4, lines 14-16), "and placing the mail piece into a mail stream for delivery to said destination address printed thereon." (See Fig. 2, item 122 and corresponding description in Col. 4, lines 16-17).

Independent claim 38 is directed to a system for producing a mail piece that comprises "first data processing means for selecting a document, selecting an address list including one or more destination addresses, and selecting a plurality of characteristics which define a mailing;" (see Fig. 1, item 10 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 15-30), "second data processing means for electronically receiving said selected document, address list and characteristics and directing said selected document, address list and characteristics to a mail production means, wherein said second data processing means is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first data processing means;" (see Fig. 1, item 22 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 28-30), "said mail production means comprising first means for printing said selected document in accordance with one or more of said selected characteristics," (see Fig. 1, item 36 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-42 and Col. 4, lines 1-5), "second means for printing each of said destination addresses to a corresponding envelope," (see Fig. 1, item 38 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-42, 60-67), "means for printing said corresponding envelope with evidence of postage payment" (see Fig. 1, item 40 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-42, and Col. 4, lines 15-17), "and means for inserting said printed document into a corresponding printed envelope." (See Fig. 1, item 40 and corresponding description in Col. 3, lines 39-42, and Col. 4, lines 7-12).

Additional features of the invention are discussed below in the Argument section of this Brief.

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

A. Whether the subject matter of claims 1, 5-21, 23-29, 32, 34, 37-40, 42, 43, 47, 51 and 52 is obvious over Cordery et al. (EP 0719597) in view of Humes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,377,120).

B. Whether the subject matter of claims 2, 30, 31 and 33 is obvious over Cordery et al. in view of Humes et al. and further in view of Seki et al. (US 5,121,195) and Lombardo (US 5,346,123).

C. Whether the subject matter of claims 3, 4, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46 and 48-50 is obvious over Cordery et al. in view of Humes et al. and further in view of Rosenbaum et al. (US 5,031,223).

VII. Argument

As discussed in detail below, the rejection of claims 1-21, 23-40 and 42-52 is devoid of any factual or legal premise that supports the position of unpatentability. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection does not even meet the threshold burden of presenting a prima facie case of unpatentability. For this reason alone, Appellants are entitled to grant of a patent. In re Oetiker, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

A. The subject matter of claims 1, 5-21, 23-29, 32, 34, 37-40, 42, 43, 47, 51 and 52 is not obvious over Cordery et al. (EP 0719597) in view of Humes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,377,120).

Appellants' invention is directed to a method and system for preparing a finished mail piece. Claim 1 is directed to method of defining and producing a finished mail piece that

comprises “(a) selecting at a first node, a plurality of characteristics which together define a mailing; (b) creating a document and storing said document in electronic form, then directing that said stored document be included in a print job comprising said mailing; (c) creating an address list comprising one or more destination addresses and storing said address list in electronic form and then selecting said stored address list for inclusion in said print job; (d) transmitting electronically said print job to a terminal node wherein said terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node; (e) receiving said print job at said terminal node, said terminal node for receiving said print job and for directing said print job to a mail production means for producing said mail piece, said mail production means further comprising: (i) a first printer; and (ii) a second printer; (f) printing on said first printer said destination address to an envelope wherein each of said destination addresses is printed to a corresponding envelope; (g) printing on said second printer said document, wherein said document is printed in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node; (h) inserting said printed document into said printed envelope to form an unfinished mail piece; (i) sealing said unfinished mail piece; (j) franking said unfinished mail piece, in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node and with characteristics determined at said second node, in order to form a finished mail piece; and (k) placing said finished mail piece into a mail stream for delivery to said destination address printed thereon.”

Cordery is also directed to an apparatus and method for producing mail pieces. As noted in Cordery, an object of Cordery is to provide an apparatus and method for producing moderately sized mail runs which is suitable for use in an office environment with standard microcomputers and word processing programs. (Col. 1, line 55 – Col. 2, line 2). A host computer 52 is coupled to apparatus 50. Apparatus 50 includes a document printer 56 and a printer controller 58. As specifically noted, it is a particular advantage that host computer 52 connects to document printer 56 in a manner which is substantially identical to the manner in which microcomputers connect to conventional laser printers. (Col. 4, lines 37-50).

The host computer 52 is used to create job data 10 which includes job header 12 and a sequence of mail piece records 14. Job header 12 defines default attributes for each mail piece on the job, including the number of document sheets to be accumulated for each mail piece, where or not a pre-printed insert is to be added to the document sheets, in the manner in which

the accumulated sheets are to be folded, wherein or not a business return envelope is to be inserted into the folded accumulation, and whether or not the mail piece is to be moistened. (Col. 3, lines 3-14). Once the apparatus 50 has finished processing a mail piece, the mail piece is output for franking with the proper postage and delivery to the postal service. (Col. 6, lines 8-9).

As noted by the Office Action, Cordery does not explicitly teach the limitation of transmitting the print job from a first node to a terminal node, wherein the terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, the first node as is recited in claim 1.

There is also no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Cordery of “franking said unfinished mail piece, in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node and with characteristics determined at said second node, in order to form a finished mail piece” as is recited in claim 1. As specifically described in Cordery, each mail piece is output from the apparatus 50 for franking. Accordingly, there is no information that is selected at the host computer 52 or determined by the apparatus 50 that are utilized for franking the unfinished mail piece. As described in the present specification, during the creation of the mailing project at the first node the user specifies the class of postage to be applied to the mailing (See Fig. 5B, item 342 and corresponding description in Col. 7, lines 5-8). Thus, franking of the mail piece is in accordance with characteristics selected at the first node, e.g., the postage class. In Cordery, the franking of each mail piece is done independent of the host computer 50 and apparatus 50, and therefore cannot be in accordance with characteristics selected at the host computer 50 and with characteristics determined at the apparatus 50.

To overcome at least some of the above deficiencies, the Office Action relies on the reference to Humes. Humes is directed to an apparatus that can take pre-printed, unaddressed mail pieces of non-identical size delivered to the mailing service from different merchants and combine the mail pieces to create mailing bundles at the lowest postal rate and group the bundles to create a single mailing. In the apparatus a computer serves to take the merchant mailing lists, merge and sort the entries thereon into lowest postal rate grouping, and use this merged database to enable a sequence controller and associated machinery to physically commingle and address the non-identical mail pieces into the single mailing bundle. (Abstract).

As described in Humes, the apparatus handles multiple input sources 11, 12, 13, 14 such as merchants, or other mailing service customers, typically with different pieces, 17, 18, 19, 20 to have mailed; and different address lists, or data bases, 23, 24, 25, 26, to which the pieces must be mailed. The data bases 23-26 are merged and sorted according to the lowest common postal rate by a first computer 29 to produce a merged data base 31. A second computer (sequence controller) 57 then uses the merged data base 51 in conjunction with other programming to control the piece handling machinery 33 used to physically commingle, address and segregate the pieces 17-20 into groups of packages, or bundles, constituting mailing 35 suitable for delivery to the post office 37 to be delivered at the lowest available postal rate. (Col. 3, lines 27-49). Fig. 3 of Humes, reproduced below, illustrates the machinery of the system Humes.

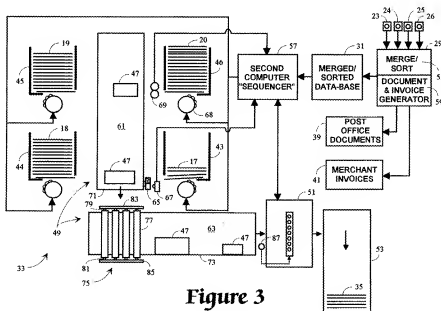


Figure 3

The machinery comprises the sequence controller 57 as a control means. Hopper/feeders 45, 44, 45, 46, are provided for containing stacks of the different piece types 17-20 and delivering individual pieces 47 from a stack to a conveyor system 49, in the order dictated by the merged data base 51. The conveyor system then serially delivers each piece to an addressor, or printer 51, which applies the appropriate address, and machine-readable characters to the piece. A packaging station 53 then accepts the pieces from the printer 51 and serves as means for appropriately segregating the pieces into individual bundles constituting the mailing suitable for delivery to the post office. The first computer 29 has two functions: The data base merging

means 55 and the manifest and invoice generator 59. The data base merging means 55 is operated to take each merchants' address list, or data base 25-26, illustrated as being stored on floppy disks, and produce a merged data base 31 of addresses, grouping the addresses into the lowest postal rate groupings and assigning additional addressing information such as a "zip plus four" zip code and post office required bar code information to each address as required for the lowest postal rates. The merged data base 51 is then input to a sequence controller 57. The sequence controller 57 operates on a "bubbler" routine serially advancing the records so that a record is read at the proper times as the piece physically moves to different operational stations through the machine. (Col. 2, line 59 – Col. 3, line 35).

Thus, in Humes, a floppy disk containing an address list is input to the first computer 29 for merging with other address lists from other floppy disks. There is no device disclosed in Humes that corresponds to a first node at which a plurality of characteristics which together define a mailing is selected and a terminal node which is not co-located with, nor under the control of the first node. In Humes, both the first computer and second computer are co-located. There are no other devices disclosed in Humes that could correspond to the first node and terminal node as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action contends that "It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cordery to include that said terminal node, to which said print job is transmitted, is no co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node, as disclosed in Humes, because it would advantageously allow to achieve lower mailing costs to a mailer, as specifically stated in Humes (C. 3, L. 48)." (Office Action, page 4). As described above, however, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Humes of a terminal node that is not co-located with, or under the control of, a first node that is used to select a plurality of characteristics which define a mailing.

Furthermore, even if, for arguments sake only, it is assumed that Humes does disclose a terminal node that is not co-located with, nor under the control of, a first node, combining Humes with Cordery to provide a first node and a terminal node that are not co-located directly contradicts one of the objects of the system described in Cordery, and specifically to provide an apparatus and method for producing moderately sized mail runs which is suitable for use in an

office environment with standard microcomputers and word processing programs (Col. 1, line 56 – Col. 2, line 2). Separating the first node and terminal node such that they are not co-located would change the operating principle of being suitable for use in an office environment of the system of Cordery. If the proposed modification of combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the reference are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious. *In re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959).

Neither Cordery nor Humes, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the limitations of transmitting the print job from a first node to a terminal node, wherein the terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, the first node as is recited in claim 1, or franking the unfinished mail piece, in accordance with characteristics selected at the first node and with characteristics determined at the second node, in order to form a finished mail piece as is recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 is in error and should be reversed.

Each of claims 5-14 is dependent upon claim 1, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 1. For the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1, Appellants respectfully submit that the final rejection of claims 5-14 is in error and should be reversed.

Each of independent claims 15, 20 and 38 includes limitations substantially similar to those of claim 1, namely a terminal node (second data processing means) that is not co-located with, nor under the control of, the first node (first data processing means). For the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1, Appellants respectfully submit that the final rejection of claims 15, 20 and 38 is in error and should be reversed.

Each of claims 16-19 is dependent upon claim 15, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 15. For the same reasons given above with respect to claim 15, Appellants respectfully submit that the final rejection of claims 16-19 is in error and should be reversed.

Each of claims 21, 23-29, 32, 34, 37, 51 and 52 is dependent upon claim 20, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 20. For the same reasons given above with

respect to claim 20, Appellants respectfully submit that the final rejection of claims 21, 23-29, 32, 34, 37, 51 and 52 is in error and should be reversed.

Each of claims 39, 40, 42, 43 and 47 is dependent upon claim 38, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 38. For the same reasons given above with respect to claim 38, Appellants respectfully submit that the final rejection of claims 39, 40, 42, 43 and 47 is in error and should be reversed.

B. The subject matter of claims 2, 30, 31 and 33 is not obvious over Cordery et al. in view of Humes et al. and further in view of Seki et al. (US 5,121,195) and Lombardo (US 5,346,123).

Claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 1. Each of claims 30, 31 and 33 is dependent upon claim 20, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 20. As noted above, neither Cordery et al. nor Humes et al., either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 1 or 20. The references to Seki and Lombardo do not cure any of the above deficiencies, as they were relied upon for other features.

For the same reasons given above with respect to claims 1 and 20, Appellants respectfully submit that the final rejection of claims 2, 30, 31 and 33 is in error and should be reversed.

C. The subject matter of claims 3, 4, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46 and 48-50 is not obvious over Cordery et al. in view of Humes et al. and further in view of Rosenbaum et al. (US 5,031,223).

Each of claims 3, 4 and 48 is dependent upon claim 11, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 1. Each of claims 34, 35, 36 and 50 is dependent upon claim 20, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 20. Each of claims 44, 45, 46 is dependent upon claim 38, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 38. Claim 49 is dependent upon

claim 15, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 15. As noted above, neither Cordery et al. nor Humes et al., either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 15, 20 or 38. The reference to Rosenbaum does not cure any of the above deficiencies, as it was relied upon for other features.

For the same reasons given above with respect to claims 1, 15, 20 and 38, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 3, 4, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46 and 48-50 is in error and should be reversed.

VIII. Conclusion

In Conclusion, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-21, 23-40 and 42-52 is in error for at least the reasons given above and should, therefore, be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments - Appendix A – Claims Appendix (8 pages)
Appendix B – Evidence Appendix (1 page)
Appendix C – Related Proceedings Appendix (1 page)

APPENDIX A – Claims Appendix

Since this application is a reissue application, pursuant to MPEP §1454, the claims below include all underlining and bracketing necessary to reflect the changes made to the patent claims during the prosecution of the reissue application, and the new claims added in the reissue application are completely underlined.

1. A method of defining and producing a finished mail piece, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) selecting at a first node, a plurality of characteristics which together define a mailing;
 - (b) creating a document and storing said document in electronic form[;], then directing that said stored document be included in a print job comprising said mailing;
 - (c) creating an address list comprising one or more destination addresses and storing said address list in electronic form and then selecting said stored address list for inclusion in said print job;
 - (d) transmitting electronically said print job to a terminal node wherein said terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node;
 - (e) receiving said print job at said terminal node[;], said terminal node for receiving said print job and for directing said print job to a mail production means for producing said mail piece[;], said mail production means further comprising:
 - (i) a first printer; and
 - (ii) a second printer;
 - (f) printing on said first printer said destination address to an envelope wherein each of said destination addresses is printed to a corresponding envelope;
 - (g) printing on said second printer said document, wherein said document is printed in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node;
 - (h) inserting said printed document into said printed envelope to form an unfinished mail piece;

- (i) sealing said unfinished mail piece;
 - (j) franking said unfinished mail piece, in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node and with characteristics determined at said second node, in order to form a finished mail piece; and
 - (k) placing said finished mail piece into a mail stream for delivery to said destination address printed thereon.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of characteristics comprises:
- (a) a choice of paper, said choice further comprising:
 - (i) a choice of ink color;
 - (ii) a choice of paper color;
 - (iii) a choice of paper size;
 - (b) a choice of duplex or simplex printing on said chosen paper;
 - (c) a choice of whether or not a reply envelope is to be printed; and
 - (d) a choice of how said chosen paper is to be folded.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said each of said destination addresses comprising said stored address list is compared to a predetermined database of correct addresses wherein each address is matched with a corresponding zip code[;], and, if said each of said destination addresses does not match said correct address then said non-matching address is corrected to match said correct address.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein duplicate destination addresses contained on said stored address list are detected by parsing address data contained within each of said destination addresses and to form a file, and then matching each of said files to determine whether any of said files duplicates another of said files.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein a receipt indicative of said print job and delivery into said mail stream is generated by said terminal node and transmitted to said first node.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said first printer and said second printer are co-located within a single apparatus.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said apparatus is a mailing system comprising:
 - (a) a data processor;
 - (b) a document printer;
 - (c) an envelope printer;
 - (d) a postage meter; and
 - (e) an inserter.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein said terminal node is the next consecutive node after said first node.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said first node selects said terminal node from among a plurality of terminal nodes.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein said first node selects said second node as determined by said second node being a first available terminal node in accordance with a predetermined order of terminal nodes.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein a second node receives said print job and distributes said print job to said terminal node for production of said finished mail piece.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein said second node receives said print job and distributes said print job to one of a plurality of terminal nodes for production of said finished mail piece.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein said second node makes said distribution based upon the availability of said terminal node.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein said distribution is determined by the location of said terminal node.
15. A system for producing a mail piece comprising:

(a) first data processing means for selecting a document, selecting an address list, and selecting a plurality of characteristics which together define a mailing;

(b) transmission means for transmitting said mailing to a second data processing means wherein said second data processing means is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first data processing means;

(c) second data processing means for receiving said mailing and downloading said mailing to a plurality of printer means comprising a first printer and a second printer;

(d) first printer means comprising said first printer for printing addresses from said address list to envelopes;

(e) second printer means comprising said second printer for printing said document to media selected at said first data processing means;

(f) inserter means for inserting said printed [documents]document into said envelopes to form an unfinished mail piece;

(g) sealing means for sealing said unfinished mail piece; and

(h) franking means for franking said unfinished mail piece to form a finished mail piece.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said second data processing means, said second printer means, said inserter means, said sealing means, and said franking means comprise a single apparatus.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein said first printer means and said second printer means are co-located.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein said system further comprises a plurality of nodes wherein one node is an initiating node and a second node is a terminal node[;], and, if there are more than two nodes in said system, then said first and said second printer means are located at said terminal node.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein a second node relays said mailing from said first data processing means to said terminal node.

20. A method of defining and producing a mail piece, comprising the steps of:

_____ selecting at a first node a plurality of characteristics which define a mailing;

_____ creating a document and storing said document in electronic form;

_____ creating an address list comprising one or more destination addresses and storing said address list in electronic form;

_____ transmitting said document, said address list and said characteristics to a terminal node wherein said terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node;

_____ receiving said document, said address list and said characteristics at said terminal node and directing said document, said address list and said characteristics to a mail production means;

_____ printing each of said destination addresses to a corresponding envelope;

_____ printing said document in accordance with one or more of said characteristics selected at said first node;

_____ inserting said printed document into a corresponding printed envelope to form the mail piece;

_____ providing said printed envelope with evidence of postage payment; and

_____ placing the mail piece into a mail stream for delivery to said destination address printed thereon.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the evidence of postage payment is in accordance with one or more of said characteristics selected at said first node.

23. A method according to claim 20, wherein said postage payment is in accordance with one or more of said characteristics selected at said first node.

24. A method according to claim 20, further comprising sealing said corresponding printed envelope after said inserting step.

25. A method according to claim 24, further comprising providing the mail piece with evidence of postage payment in accordance with one or more of said characteristics selected at said first node.

26. A method according to claim 24, wherein said printed envelope is provided with evidence of postage payment.

27. A method according to claim 26, wherein said postage payment is in accordance with one or more of said characteristics selected at said first node.

28. A method according to claim 20, wherein said document, said address list and said characteristics are transmitted independent of one another.

29. A method according to claim 20, wherein said document, said address list and said characteristics are transmitted concurrently.

30. A method according to claim 20, wherein said plurality of characteristics selected at said first node comprise paper size and whether printing should be on one or both sides of a page.

31. A method according to claim 30, wherein said plurality of characteristics selected at said first node further comprise paper color.

32. A method according to claim 20, wherein said plurality of characteristics selected at said first node comprise a class of postage for the mail piece.

33. A method according to claim 20, wherein said plurality of characteristics selected at said first node comprise whether a reply envelope is to be included in the mailpiece.

34. A method according to claim 20, further comprising verifying at said terminal node each of said destination addresses comprising said address list.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein said verifying step comprises comparing each of said destination addresses to a corresponding correct address in a database containing correct addresses.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein one or more of said destination addresses are standardized to match the corresponding correct address contained in said database.

37. A method according to claim 20, wherein said terminal node provides an indication to said first node that said mail piece has been placed into the mail stream for delivery.

38. A system for producing a mail piece, comprising:

first data processing means for selecting a document, selecting an address list including one or more destination addresses, and selecting a plurality of characteristics which define a mailing;

second data processing means for electronically receiving said selected document, address list and characteristics and directing said selected document, address list and characteristics to a mail production means, wherein said second data processing means is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first data processing means;

said mail production means comprising first means for printing said selected document in accordance with one or more of said selected characteristics, second means for printing each of said destination addresses to a corresponding envelope, means for printing said corresponding envelope with evidence of postage payment, and means for inserting said printed document into a corresponding printed envelope.

39. A system according to claim 38, said mail production means further comprising means for sealing the corresponding printed envelope.

40. A system according to claim 38, said mail production means further comprising means for providing the corresponding printed envelope with evidence of postage payment in accordance with one or more of said selected characteristics.

42. A system according to claim 38, wherein said postage payment is in accordance with one or more of said selected characteristics.

43. A system according to claim 38, wherein said document and said address list are stored in electronic form.

44. A system according to claim 38, wherein said second data processing means comprises means for verifying each of said destination addresses included in said address list.

45. A system according to claim 44, wherein said means for verifying compares each of said destination addresses to a corresponding correct address in a database containing correct addresses.

46. A system according to claim 45, wherein said means for verifying standardizes one or more of said destination addresses to match the corresponding correct address contained in said database.

47. A system according to claim 38, wherein said second data processing means provides an indication to said first data processing means that said mail piece has been placed into a mail stream for delivery.

48. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein in step (h), the destination address information on said document matches said destination address on said envelope if said document contains specific address information.

49. The system claimed in claim 15, wherein said destination address information on said document matches the destination address on said envelope if the document contains specific address information.

50. The method claimed in claim 20, wherein said destination address information on said document matches said destination address on said envelope if said document contains specific address information.

51. The method according to claim 21, wherein said evidence of postage is a permit mail postal indicia.

52. The method according to claim 21, wherein said evidence of postage is a postal indicia that indicates the amount of postage that has been paid.

APPENDIX B – EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no evidence submitted pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 or any other evidence entered by the examiner and relied upon by Appellants in the appeal.

APPENDIX C – RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no appeals or interferences are known to Appellants, their legal representative, or the assignee which may be directly related to, directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.